

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Applicants are canceling the previously pending claims without prejudice or disclaimer, and are submitting new claims 43-64.

Rejections

Claims 22-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations of the document referred to as Labview by National Instruments (Labview), U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0074489 (Steger), and U.S. Patent No. 6,513,068 (Jones). Claims 22-42 have been cancelled, thereby rendering the rejections moot.

Previous claims

With respect to any possibility that the subject matter of new claims 43-64 overlaps with the originally filed claims 1-21, Applicant notes that claims 1-21 were cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Statement with regard to 35 USC § 112, first and second paragraphs

Throughout prosecution, the Office has raised various 35 USC § 112, first and second paragraphs, rejections. Applicant has consistently responded to the rejections when the rejections have been raised. With respect to new claims 43-64, Applicant believes the claims are enabled and definite, and reserve the right to respond to the Office if the examiner argues otherwise.

Statement with regard to the cited prior art

Claim 43 is directed to a circuit card assembly connectable to a system. Claim 52 is directed to a system comprising, among other things, a circuit card assembly. Claim 57 is directed to operating on a plurality of discrete signals of a system, the system including a circuit card assembly having at least eight system connections. Therefore, each of claims 43, 52, and 57 include or relate to a circuit card assembly. The term assembly is defined in the *American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition*, as, for example, "4. a. The putting together of manufactured parts to make a completed product, such as a machine or electronic circuit. b. A set of parts so assembled." Therefore, a circuit card assembly is a circuit

card that is put together of manufactured parts to make a completed circuit card product, or a set of parts so assembled as a circuit card. For claims 43 and 52, the parts are identified in the body of the claim and, for claim 57, the method includes steps or acts performed on signals received and communicated through the circuit card assembly.

Labview, on the other hand, is a quick start guide for the LabVIEW environment. Labview does not teach or suggest a circuit card assembly as specified in claims 43 and 52, or steps performed on signals received and communicated through a circuit card assembly, as specified by claim 57.

The cited text of Steger discloses a measurement module including a trigger activated analog to digital converter 304 and a field programmable gate array 308, controlled by data acquisition electronic data sheet 307. Steger does not teach or suggest a circuit card assembly as specified in claims 43 and 52, or steps performed on signals received and communicated through a circuit card assembly, as specified by claim 57.

Jones was cited by the Office as being directed to an apparatus and method for monitoring and controlling remote interactive systems. Jones does not teach or suggest a circuit card assembly as specified in claims 43 and 52, or steps performed on signals received and communicated through a circuit card assembly, as specified by claim 57.

U.S. Patent No. 6,392,557 (Kreuter), which was cited against some of original claims 1-21, is directed to an override board used to control an individual output of a programmable logic controller. The override board includes a manual switch mounted to a printed circuit board assembly. Kreuter does not teach or suggest a circuit card assembly as specified in claims 43 and 52, or steps performed on signals received and communicated through a circuit card assembly, as specified by claim 57.

U.S. Patent No. 6,831,926 (Kinstler), which was cited against some of original claims 1-21, is directed to linking of legacy signals to wideband networks. Kinstler does not teach or suggest a circuit card assembly as specified in claims 43 and 52, or steps performed on signals received and communicated through a circuit card assembly, as specified by claim 57.

Applicant also asserts U.S. Patent Nos. 6,241,099 and 5,766,027, which were cited against some of original claims 1-21, do not cure the above discussed references.

Accordingly, Applicant asserts claims 43, 52, and 57 are allowable. Claims 44-51, 53-56, and 58-64 depend, either directly or indirectly, from one of claims 43, 52, and 57. Consequently, claims 44-51, 53-56, and 58-64 include patentable subject matter for the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 43, 52, and 57. Therefore, dependent claims 44-51, 53-56, and 58-64 are allowable. Further, claims 44-51, 53-56, and 58-64 specify additional elements and/or limitations that, in combination with one of claims 43, 52, and 57, are believed to be inventive.

Conclusion

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment, and reconsideration and allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C F Laska'.

Casimir F. Laska
Reg. No. 30,862

Docket No. 061151-9028
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
100 East Wisconsin Avenue
Suite 3300
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-4108
262.956.6560